



NEWS RELEASE

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District: O4

Contact: Jeff Weiss (510) 286-5543 cell (510) 715-7180

John Cunliffe (510) 286-5754 cell (510) 715-9931

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Extended Closure Expected at Devils Slide

After examining the subsiding roadway at Devils Slide, Caltrans is advising motorists to expect the road to remain closed for an extended period of time. Highway 1 at Devils Slide was closed on Sunday evening, April 2, 2006 after the slide detection system embedded in the road alerted maintenance crews that the road was moving.

As the road continued to deteriorate, Caltrans geologists observed that the roadway is rupturing in the same location as the 1995 slide which closed the road for nearly six months. It is too early to tell if this slide will be as severe, however early indications point towards an extended closure.

Work crews will remove boulders from the mountainside to make the work zone safe. Drill rigs will bore 150- foot holes into which sensors will be lowered to measure the rate of movement of slide planes. After the slide stabilizes, Caltrans will use repair techniques similar to those used in 1995. The work could take several months to complete.

Devils Slide is undercut by a series of slide planes, formed by earthquakes on the Pilarcitos Fault. When the slide planes fill with water, they slowly slip towards the ocean.

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